

Judge Boyd has dedicated her career to making Tarrant County a better place to live, and her contributions to our community are undeniable. I join in congratulating her on her outstanding service and retirement.

HONORING JERRY HANAS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I stand before you today to honor Jerry Hanas and to wish him well upon his retirement as General Manager of the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District. Mr. Hanas's many years of service and expertise in his field have been a remarkable asset to the community of Northwest Indiana and beyond. In honor of Jerry's retirement, a celebratory reception was held on Wednesday, November 5, 2014, at Sand Creek Country Club in Chesterton, Indiana.

Northwest Indiana's extensive transportation network earns this region's reputation for being the crossroads of America. Interstates 80, 94, 90, and 65 traverse our landscape, as do the railroad tracks servicing the Norfolk Southern, Canadian National, and CSX rail lines, connecting travelers and business interests alike from the East to West Coasts. Most notably, the South Shore Rail Line, a passenger rail service offered by the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD), provides riders access to the environs of Chicago and its \$500 billion economy. Under Mr. Hanas's direction, NICTD and the South Shore Rail Line have flourished.

Established in 1908, the South Shore Rail Line provided passenger service to the city of Chicago as well as to the recreational opportunities found in Northwest Indiana, given its proximity to Lake Michigan and South Bend. With the advent of the interstate system, and the newfound ability to travel between neighboring communities with ease, ridership along the South Shore Rail Line began to decline. In order to prevent the complete loss of this asset, the state of Indiana created NICTD for the sole purpose of maintaining and operating the passenger line. Jerry Hanas was hired as the General Manager of NICTD upon its creation in June 1977, and it is here where he has served the railroad for 37 years.

NICTD's success is due to Jerry's competence, hard work, and dedication to a long-term vision in which passenger rail service is improved and expanded throughout the region. He effectively coordinated NICTD's purchase of the South Shore railroad and passenger assets, resulting in a stable and reliable relationship between the passenger and freight services. This acquisition required a steadfast commitment to a series of strategic investments to ensure the line's continuation. To that end, under Jerry's leadership, since 1977, over \$500 million has been dedicated to upgrading the rolling stock, stations, track, catenary, bridges, and signals associated with the line in order to enhance safety and to make much needed capacity-related track improvements.

Currently, NICTD is in the process of conducting the appropriate environmental studies as part of its effort to expand services to the

suburban areas in Northwest Indiana. This expansion is a key component to capitalizing upon our region's transportation network and maximizing economic development opportunities. Although Jerry Hanas retires this fall, he leaves a completely rebuilt and vibrant South Shore Rail Line to serve as his legacy and a well-established corporate vision to keep the momentum going for future generations.

Jerry's commitment to his career and to the community of Northwest Indiana is exceeded only by his devotion to his family. He and his wonderful wife, Nancy, have a daughter, Melissa, son-in-law, Tom, and one beloved grandson, Donovan. They also have one son, Roger, whose fiancée, Annie, will be joining Jerry's exceptional family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Jerry Hanas for his lifetime of leadership, service, and dedication to the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District. Jerry's impact on the region will be evident for generations to come, and he is worthy of the highest praise. I ask that you join me in wishing him well upon his retirement.

IN MEMORY OF DETECTIVE MICHAEL DAVID DAVIS, JR.

HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with Representative DOUG LAMALFA, in honor of the service and sacrifice of Placer County, California, Sheriff Detective Michael David Davis, Jr.

A long-time resident of Roseville, Detective Davis was a man of integrity and compassion. He cared about the community and took initiative to protect and better it. Such an example would be when Michael organized a funeral for an abandoned baby.

On October 24th, Detective Davis displayed immense courage and gallantry during a manhunt for the murderer of a fellow officer, Sacramento County Deputy Sheriff Danny Oliver. Detective Davis was killed in the line of duty, just as his father was struck down 26 years prior to the day.

Detective Davis faithfully and honorably served the Placer County community, joining the Sheriff's office in 1996. For the past fifteen years, Michael contributed to his family's legacy of law enforcement, just as his father did before him. Michael tirelessly worked as a homicide investigator, but he will be remembered for much more.

His bravery and kind soul will never be forgotten. He was a family man, devoted to his loving wife and four children. Michael is also survived by his four siblings, mother and stepfather.

Mr. Speaker, Detective Michael David Davis, Jr. will be deeply and sorely missed not only by his family, but also by his community. The State of California, and particularly the Fourth Congressional District, was blessed to have had such a man of character and heroism protecting our citizens.

Michael's legacy will live on in the lives that he touched. Just as he served, he died embodying the virtues that form the foundation of this great nation. It is my privilege to rise in

recognition of his sacrifice for Placer County and to honor his memory.

CONGRATULATING VIRGINIA T. WOOD ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY ON NOVEMBER 12, 2014

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Virginia T. Wood on her 100th birthday. Ms. Wood has led a remarkable life as a lifelong resident of Chicago and has lived in my district for over 60 years.

Virginia Wood has devoted much of her time as a High School Physical Education Teacher for the Chicago Board of Education, teaching at several schools including South Shore High School and Bogan High School. Ms. Wood was then promoted to Coordinator of girl's athletics for the Chicago Board of Education, eventually retiring with over 26 years of service. Even after retirement, she remained an active supporter of girls high school sports.

Ms. Wood has enjoyed a very active life, continuing to swim and bowl until she reached the age of 96. She has never missed voting in an election, and became involved with the neighborhood watch program for the Chicago Police Department. She is a model participant in her community, and we should all try to emulate her outstanding service.

Ms. Wood has led an extraordinary life that has given so much to others. I join her many family members and friends in celebrating this event and I wish her more years of happiness, fulfillment, and health. Congratulations to Ms. Wood on her centennial birthday milestone.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARCUS HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate another stellar achievement by the Marcus High School Marching Band. This is the fifth time the Marcus High School Band has won first place in the University Interscholastic League (UIL) State Marching competition and been crowned state champions! The Marcus High School Marching Band has furthered their already impressive record of four consecutive state marching finals victories, cementing their UIL record.

The Marcus High School Marching Band has a talented and dedicated leadership team, headed by Amanda Drinkwater, Director of Bands, and Associate Directors: Kennan Wylie, Chase Howard, and David Simon as well as Color Guard Director, John Leonard. The student members of the Marauder Band have worked long hours over many months to bring their winning performance "Imperial Treasures" to fruition. They have been capably led by Drum Majors Amanda Elmendorf, Hannah Hadden, and Nicholas Kohn. Edward S. Marcus High School is located in Flower Mound, Texas within the Lewisville Independent School District. The school's administrators, teachers and students as well as its

committed booster organization have wholeheartedly supported the band's endeavors and should also be recognized and commended for their contributions to its great success.

I am pleased to join the community in congratulating the Marcus High School Band, winner of the 2014 Class 6A Texas UIL State Marching Band Contest. They have been excellent ambassadors for Flower Mound and the 26th District of Texas. It is my privilege to serve them in the U.S. House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF REGIS GROFF

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of one of Denver's most respected residents, former Colorado State Senator Regis Groff, who passed away on October 5 at age 79. This remarkable man merits both our recognition and gratitude for his unwavering efforts to stand for what's right. He leaves behind an impressive record of leadership in social justice and education, and he made an enormous impact on many lives.

Regis Groff wasn't afraid to fight the tough battles when he knew he was standing up for others. He worked to strengthen education and to ensure a fair system for everyone. He was an educator, a state senator and a community servant. We in Colorado are fortunate to have had Mr. Groff laboring for equality in our community. The legacy that he leaves behind should inspire us all to continue his fight with a measure of dedication with which he worked.

Born in a small town in Illinois, Regis Groff first came to Denver while serving in the United States Air Force, where he was stationed at Lowry Air Force Base for several months. He returned to Illinois and attended Western Illinois University earning a BA in 1962. When it came time to settle down and raise a family, he chose to make Denver home. He taught at Smiley and Lake Junior High Schools before starting an African-American history class at East High School. Later he earned a master's in Education from the University of Denver in 1972.

A long-standing interest in politics led him to run for the Colorado State Senate. He was successful in his bid and served from 1974 to 1994. During those twenty years, he demonstrated time and again his willingness to fight for fairness and justice, including an effort to divest Colorado from South Africa's apartheid government. He cites the highlight of his time in the Senate as passing legislation that established a holiday for Martin Luther King, Jr. in Colorado. His colleagues recognized his leadership and elected him the first African-American Minority Leader of the Colorado State Senate. His efforts were also rewarded with numerous awards from the community, including Legislator of the Year from the Associated Press.

Roy Romer appointed Regis as the first Director of the new Youthful Offenders System. His dedication to community service then continued in his role as Executive Director of the Metro Black Church Initiative. He was selfless

to the end. As a teacher, Mr. Groff had an impact on countless students. I hope some of them are as inspired by him as I am and will carry on his work to fight the good fight. His talents and perseverance are an example for us all.

Please join me in commending Regis Groff. His leadership in the search for justice and equality enriches our lives and builds a better future for everyone living in Colorado.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. ROSCOE R. CASSIDY

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the life of an outstanding individual, Mr. Roscoe R. Cassidy of Preston, Kentucky. Mr. Cassidy served our nation in military uniform from June 3, 1942 to October 9, 1945 and recently passed-away at the age of 107.

As a young man, Mr. Cassidy began his service in the United States Army as a Private First Class assigned to Company E, 335th Engineering Regiment, Duty Soldier 188. During the United States' campaign to achieve victory over the Axis Powers, Mr. Cassidy fought his way from Tunisia, Africa, up through southern France, across Italy and did not stop until the Allies achieved victory in Germany.

Mr. Cassidy's valiant performance fighting in four major campaigns earned him great distinction, and for his actions he received the European Middle Eastern Campaign Ribbon, four Bronze Stars, and a Good Conduct Medal.

After victoriously returning to his home in Preston, Kentucky, Mr. Cassidy began his career of farming and working for the Bath County Road Department. Mr. Cassidy enjoyed life and loved to dance while listening to country and bluegrass music.

Mr. Cassidy's bravery and that of his fellow men and women in uniform protected our American freedoms for future generations. He was truly an outstanding American, a protector of freedom, and an inspiration to us all.

RECOGNIZING MS. CLARA I. SISSEL

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Clara I. Sissel of Odessa, Texas. Since 2002, Ms. Sissel has sent more than 1,200 care packages to our armed services members stationed overseas. For her efforts, she is being honored by her family, friends, and the members of the Omni Club for her tireless and selfless service to our armed forces.

Ms. Sissel has made her care packages, or love boxes as she prefers to call them, a personal mission to show each service member that someone back home is thinking of them and cares about their well being. Although fourteen years is a long time, her service did not start in 2002. Ms. Sissel started her mission during the Vietnam War. Through the

years, she has sent at least one package per week at her own expense. As a token of remembrance, Ms. Sissel has created scrap books containing every letter that she has received from recipients of her care packages.

However, her efforts did not stop at her front door. Ms. Sissel has also led many Odessa organizations to join her mission in showing our armed service members that they are in our thoughts and prayers back home. She has brought together the VFW and local churches to help in running community care package drives. These care package drives allow people to donate goods or their time to help fill care packages for our veterans.

Clara Sissel's selflessness and determined dedication embody the American spirit and has lifted the hearts of thousands of service members worldwide. Her weekly token of appreciation reminds our service members that their daily sacrifices are not taken for granted, and I am sure they are thankful for Ms. Sissel's support. I am honored to recognize her as a true patriot in our community and to share her story with you all today.

IN HONOR OF BOB LEE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Bob Lee, a champion for justice who committed his life to public service and worked tirelessly to assure that the Central Coast of California is a safe place to live for all.

Bob launched his career in 1985 as a prosecutor in Monterey County before joining the Santa Cruz County District Attorney's Office in 1988, where he served as Assistant District Attorney for fourteen years. Bob was a notably gifted trial attorney, having never lost a case in Santa Cruz County.

Bob was elected Santa Cruz District Attorney in 2002. As District Attorney, he made significant structural improvements to the District Attorney's Office. He led efforts in developing and strengthening specialized units that prosecuted gang members, violent criminals, sex offenders, and cases involving environment and consumer protection abuses. Bob also played a pivotal role in establishing the Santa Cruz County Gang Task Force, which centered on the containment of gang activity and prosecution of gang members.

A native of Santa Cruz, Bob was the youngest of four brothers. He earned a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Public Administration from California State University of Sacramento in 1980. His Juris Doctorate was obtained only four years later from the University of Santa Clara.

After a long and brave battle with cancer, the Central Coast of California mourns the loss of one of its strongest leaders. Bob will be remembered for his incredible achievements in building a safer and more thriving environment in Santa Cruz County. He gave his life to his service and his fervor for justice will forever remain unmatched. The District Attorney's office will certainly cherish Bob's unforgettable dedication and will continue to carry out his resolute spirit in future pursuits. Bob was also an amazing family man, and is survived by his wife, Barbara Lee.